

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER
St. Mary's Parish School
Week of September 6, 2021
 Second Week of School



Items to note this week:

September 6: Labor Day---legal holiday---have a GREAT weekend!

Tuesday, September 7: **Hot lunch:** Hot dogs/buns + chips

Wednesday, September 8 The school's **Garden Club** will begin. Students from Grade 3 to 8th Grade are invited to come after school (3:00 to 3:45) to work with Mr. Bart Quesnell in the garden. It will be meeting every Wednesday.

Happy Birthday to Mary, Jesus' mom. *In her honor there will be a family rosary in the school gym at 7:00 p.m. ALL families are invited (Catholic or not---bring your own rosary (we'll have extra rosaries available) plus the prayers written out so it will be easy to follow.) Afterwards, there will be **ice cream** to celebrate her birthday. Time will only be 30 minutes.*

Hot lunch: Baked potatoes (choice of bacon bits, sour cream, green onions)

Thursday, September 9: **Hot lunch:** Taquitos and rice, plus green beans

Friday, September 10: Mass at 9:00 a.m. at the Parish Church---

Hot lunch: Quesadillas with ham and/or cheese, plus

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Please send a picture of your family. Why? Flowing from last year, we want to add to our "Family Wall" in the lower hall (adding our new families as well as updating family pictures). We don't put names on the pictures, just the picture is displayed. Please send your family picture to either office@stmarysmoscow.com OR sisterm@stmarysmoscow.com We'll print and display them.

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- ❖ Would like to know more about the Catholic Faith?
- ❖ Is there a person you know who has been *baptized in another faith and would like to become Catholic*?
- ❖ Maybe there is someone who has been away from practicing their faith and has a desire to become active again, but not sure how to do this.
- ❖ Do you know someone who was baptized Catholic but never learned about their faith?
- ❖ Is there someone you know who is married to a Catholic and wants to know why Catholics do what they do?

*If you answered "yes" to one of the above questions, please consider inviting the person who came to your mind to the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)**. They meet every Wednesday starting at 7:00 p.m. in St. Mary's Parish Center (East First St.). For more information, talk with Caroline Canney at 208-882-4813. And if the person cannot make the meeting this week, then come the following week. It is always you're invited to "come and see" without making a commitment. If you are inviting someone to come, consider coming with the person you are inviting.*



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For those who attend St. Mary's Church: the church is seeking persons—children, men and women (ages 9 to 99) who are willing to be altar servers at Mass. Also, parents could serve with their child; siblings with each other, etc.) As Fr. Joe wrote: *“If you have served in a ministry at St. Mary's before, please know we would love for you to return to that ministry. You can pick a different one or stay with the one you know.”*

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As mentioned in the last communique, there was a “goof” with the updated emails for our teachers. Please use the following **updated (new and correct) emails** to communicate with the following teachers. Thank you!

- loliveira@stmarysmoscow.com (Louise Oliveira for Early Childhood: PS and PK)
- dswam@stmarysmoscow.com (Danette Swam for Kindergarten)
- nasker@stmarysmoscow.com (Nicole Asker for Grade 1)
- pquesnell@stmarysmoscow.com (Peggy Quesnell for Grade 2)
- sizzo@stmarysmoscow.com (Sandy Izzo for Grade 3)
- emcevoy@stmarysmoscow.com (Elizabeth McEvoy for Grade 4)
- kseidel@stmarysmoscow.com (Kamryn Seidel for Grade 5)
- sotto@stmarysmoscow.com (Sandy Otto for Grade 6 Math)
- abright@stmarysmoscow.com (Ashleigh Bright for Grade 6,7 and 8 Language Arts, Science, Social Studies and Gr. 7/8 Math)
- ljohnson@stmarysmoscow.com (Lora Johnson, Child Care/After School Supervisor)
- To be updated is Nikki Crathorne. Use her old email till further notice.

There are no changes to the rest of the staff. If you need a specific email and you don't have it, please call the office for it.

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Please note the following:

As a parent, what answer would you give to the following questions regarding the need for childcare when it's not offered at the school?

- ❖ Do the *days with no school breaks* cause a difficult schedule challenge for you?
- ❖ Are you a stay-at-home parent that would like to earn some more money during these breaks with kiddos you know?
- ❖ Would you be open to “sharing” days in a parent co-op (one parent takes a couple kiddos one day, the next parent the next day, and so on)?
- ❖ Do you have resources you would like to share with other parents (teenage student that is looking to make extra money during the breaks, a babysitter that would like to expand his/her group of kiddos)?
- ❖ Any other ideas that you may have?

IF you have said “yes” to any of the above questions. It would be good to meet with other parents who have similar concerns. See what Karen Richel is suggesting on [page 5](#) of this Newsletter.

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One of our family *is looking for housing. Please see **page 5** for their request.*

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MASKS: Do you need masks for your child(ren). One of our parents, Samantha Davis does make such masks. She wanted to share her business with the parents. Please go to **page 5** of this Newsletter for more information.

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Speaking of masks: thank you parents for seeing that your child is masked daily. It might be good to have their mask in their pocket when they come to school since they are outside at play. When the bell rings they can take their mask out of their pocket to put it on.

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Just so you know: we have the Vault PCR tests from the state of Idaho that allows a person to know if s/he has contacted the virus. These tests use saliva, do not require a doctor's order, are highly sensitive and result in 24-72 hours. There is no cost for this service and it is mailed via UPS free of cost. If you need a test, just ask the school office for one.

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QUESTIONS Parents Are Asking:

Q. Do my children must wear closed toe shoes and socks?

A. *Yes, both are required.*

Q. School uniforms: *when can we expect to be able to order uniforms for Masses on Fridays?*

A. *At this time, Schoolbelles, is experiencing a backlog of supplies. Our recommendation is to definitely order/purchase one shirt with the school logo from Schoolbelles. Then you could purchase the rest of the uniform locally using the Schoolbelles chart of color and clothes.*

Q. Where and by whom are masks required to be worn?

A. *By all persons (students, adults, visitors) while they are inside the school building. This is true for every person (vaccinated/unvaccinated).*

Q. Are masks required outside?

A. *No.*

Q. Where will Mass be held this year?

A. *Masses will be held at St. Mary's Parish **Church**. Check the Newsletter (or school calendar) for dates and times.*

Q. Will parents be able to attend Mass this year?

A. *Yes, all are welcome.*

Q. Are masks required to be worn in the church?

A. *Yes.*

Q. This is a change from what was sent out on August 13 to families. Why the change?

A. *Father Joe wants all parents to know that he is continuing to monitor the situation the best way he can to keep our children, school, and parish as safe as possible as Covid continues to rapidly spread in Idaho. Therefore, he decided masks do need to be worn in the church by all who come to the school Mass on Fridays. Since the students will be walking in the open air to and from the church, they may choose to go mask less until they enter the church.*

Q. Are there other health protocols for Mass?

A. *The students will be sitting in a pew, and will be spread out from each other. There will be an empty pew in front and behind each class. This way each class will remain in its own "bubble".*

Q. Are there other health protocols that are happening daily?

A. *The following is in place:*

- 1) *Upon arriving at school, each person (students, staff) have their temperature taken at the kiosk in the lunch room.*
- 2) *Drinking fountains will remain closed off; water coolers will continue in each classroom. Students have their own water containers.*
- 3) *Fogging of classrooms twice daily and cleaning desks with disinfectant wipes as needed daily.*
- 4) *Humidifiers, Purifiers and fans will continue to be used in every classroom.*
- 5) *Social distancing (3 feet) and Plexiglas partitions where needed will be used in the classrooms.*
- 6) *Good personal hygiene (washing of hands frequently during the day and after trips to the bathroom).*
- 7) *Eating lunch in their classrooms.*

We are living in fluid times that are ever changing with new information almost daily. We will continue to monitor and stay in touch with the "health/medical" experts in order to make the best decisions we can for the sake of all the students and staff. Thank you and blessings!

IGNITING *faith, knowledge, creativity and service*

ADDENDA INFORMATION TO THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER.....

PAGE 5 is an Addenda from two parents regarding childcare on non-school days (when school is not offering it) and masks for children:

This is the information/questions from Karen Richel to all parent:

One of our parents, Karen Richel, has said “yes” to the above questions. She wrote and said she would be glad to meet with other parents who are in the same situation as she. As she has said: “Childcare for busy parents is always a tough thing. Our kiddos are our number one priority but sometimes we need a little extra help. During the school year, we have legal holidays, 1 week of spring break and Thanksgiving Break, and two weeks at Christmas plus the two weeks prior to school starting from summer program to the first day. This can sometimes create a hardship for working parents if they don’t have a childcare support system. If this is something that you would like another option for, please contact Karen Richel (Matthew’s mom – 3rd grade) at krichel@uidaho.edu. Let’s have a conversation and see how we can utilize our amazing St. Mary’s community to enrich our children with friends during break and make our lives a little easier at the same time. Thanks in advance.” The first break (without childcare at school) is the Thanksgiving Vacation (November 22-26).

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One of our family is looking for housing---can you assist them? Does anyone have leads on property currently not available on the market? We are looking for a house with a mother-in law-apartment or a duplex. My mother wants to be with her grandkids and is anxious to move back to Idaho! Thank you for any assistance you can give us. *The Newlan Family*

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If the following is something you are looking for, one of our parents might be able to assist you.

I was just talking to a fellow St Mary’s mom at Troy farmers market. She was buying some of my masks for her kids. She thought I should let you know, I sew high quality masks for kids and adults. With school starting, I’m doing a special of 5 kids masks for \$20. That’s one for each day of school! You’re welcome to share this information, put it in the next Newsletter.... I thought it might be helpful. The other mom said they’re hard to find again, and I know the quality of store-bought ones don’t come close to mine. I have a HUGE array of fun colors and prints too. :)

Samantha Davis (208-596-3210) or check her out on FB: Sew Cute Sewing & Alterations

